

Application No. 10/063,414
Amendment dated 13 March 2006
After Final Office Action of January 11, 2006

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Docket No.: 08228/1203278-US5

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

logging the search requests for which an interest is implicitly determined in digital media records that are identified based on the received search requests;

expanding the logged search requests;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm to the expanded logged search requests based on content of the expanded logged search requests, thereby grouping similar search requests together;

identifying, using a semantic net hierarchy, a lowest-level term in the hierarchy that subsumes all queries in a grouping of search requests; and

communicating the identified term to a user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

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performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records, the digital media records each having associated metadata;

logging the search results and the metadata associated with digital media records selected therein ~~for which an interest is determined in the digital media records;~~

expanding the metadata, defining expanded query metadata results;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm based on content of the expanded query metadata results, thereby grouping similar expanded query metadata results together;

identifying, using a semantic net hierarchy, a lowest-level term in the hierarchy that subsumes all of the expanded query metadata results in the grouping of expanded query metadata results; and

communicating the identified term to a user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

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performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records or being empty;

logging the search requests for which the search result is empty;

expanding the logged search requests;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm to the expanded logged search requests based on content of the expanded logged search requests, thereby grouping similar search requests together; and

communicating a group of search requests to a user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the system permitting user expressions of interest in particular stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records;

receiving expressions of interest from users with respect to selected digital media records;

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logging the search requests for which a user has expressed interest in
a selected digital media record;

expanding the logged search requests;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm to the expanded logged
search requests based on content of the expanded logged search requests, thereby
grouping similar search requests together;

communicating a group of search requests to a user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the expanding is
performed using a thesaurus.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the expanding is
performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing
interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user placing the selected
digital media record into an online shopping cart.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing
interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user purchasing rights to use
the selected digital media record.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing
interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user placing the selected
digital media record into an online projects folder or other work space.

16. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises
identifying, using a semantic net hierarchy, a lowest-level linguistic term in the
hierarchy that subsumes all queries in a grouping of search requests.

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17. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the identifying comprises identifying, using a semantic net hierarchy, a lowest-level linguistic term in the hierarchy that subsumes all of the expanded query metadata results in the grouping of expanded query metadata results.

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